

Message Text

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62

ACTION OC-06

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2379

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0353

FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, AFSP, FW

SUBJECT: MARTINIQUE TELEX EQUIPMENT

REF: PARIS 24565, MARTINIQUE 339, PRINCIPAL OFFICER LETTER TO
RCO - RAMBO FEBRUARY 18

1. WE WANT TO MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE MATTER OF THE PTT
TELEX PROBLEM WHICH HAS PLAGUED US SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR IN OUR
EFFORT TO UP-DATE OUR COMMUNICATIONS HERE. FOR MORE THAN A YEAR
WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET OUR HW-28 OPERATIONAL, FIRST BECAUSE
OF A GROUP OF PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE TELEX ANSWERBACK, THE TAPE
READER, AND THE REQUISITION OF A NEW TELEX FROM FRANCE. IF WE
CANNOT OBTAIN THE TOTAL MODIFICATION AND THE EQUIPMENT OPERA-
TIONAL, WE WILL BE FORCED TO DROP THE PROJECT AND TO RETURN THE
EQUIPMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. PARIS' CABLE IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE PROBLEM AND WE WONDER IF PTT PARIS IS IN FACT FULLY IN-
FORMED. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE FRENCH PTT MAY HAVE APPROVED
THE ANSWERBACK MODIFICATION ON OUR TELEX AND, INDEED, SOME
OF THE WORK ON OUR EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DONE. HOWEVER, THE PTT
CANNOT OR IS NOW RELUCTANT TO COMPLETE THE WORK, BECAUSE THE
TELEX MACHINE WE HAVE IS ASSIGNED AS BACK UP FOR THE PREFET'S
OFFICE. THE LOCAL PTT, WE ARE TOLD, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN
A NEW TELEX FOR US BECAUSE OF BUDGET PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE OUR
TELEX IS PART OF A REQUISITION OF SEVERAL OTHER ITEMS OF EQUIP-
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MENT. OSTENSIBLY, IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT OUR EFFORTS HAVE

BOGGED DOWN AGAIN. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE MAY WELL BE GETTING THE RUN AROUND FROM THE LOCAL PTT ON THE MATTER BECAUSE, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, WE HAVE RECENTLY MADE NO FURTHER PROGRESS ON GETTING THE WORK FINISHED.

3. WE WILL MUCH WELCOME ANYTHING THE DEPARTMENT OR THE EMBASSY CAN DO TO PRESS THE PTT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT (AND MAINTENANCE). FRENCH EQUIPMENT IS PREFERABLE HERE BECAUSE OF THE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS WE WOULD BE SURE TO EXPERIENCE WITH U.S.-OWNED AND MODIFIED EQUIPMENT. MEANWHILE, WE FINDING IT PUZZLING TO CONTEMPLATE PTT RELUCTANCE TO INSTALL THE EQUIPMENT, SOMETHING WHICH WILL DELAY OR BLOCK US FROM A MUCH NEEDED AND WHOLLY JUSTIFIABLE MODERNIZATION OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS. IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, FOR INSTANCE, WE COULD HAVE MADE VALUABLE USE OF THE HW-28 AND TELEX MODIFICATION BECAUSE OF THE GUADELOUPE VOLCANO ERUPTION. I HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EMBASSY PARIS ON THE PROBLEM AND, IF NECESSARY, BUILD A GOOD SIZED BONFIRE UNDER THE PTT BUREAUCRACY TO MOVE THINGS ALONG.
SHACKLETON

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